

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 1 through 23 are pending in the application and the Examiner rejected claims 17-23 and allowed claims 1, 3-7, and 9-16. Applicant notes that claims 2, 8 and 13 were canceled in applicant's response to the previous Office Action.

Allowable Subject Matter

At item 5 on page 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 1, 3-7 and 9-16 are allowed. Applicant thanks the Examiner for this indication of allowance.

The Rejection of Claims 17-23

On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,828,266 to Couet in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,408,529 to Greaves, and on page 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Couet in view of Greaves and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,661,891 to Djadi et al.

Applicant has amended claim 17 to include, in method-claim form, the limitations added to claim 1 to secure its allowance. Since these limitations are not taught or suggested by the prior art, Applicant submits that claims 17-20 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Conclusion

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of the claims and issue an early Notice of Allowance. The claim amendments submitted herewith place the claims in allowable condition and thus should be entered.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 19-5425.

Respectfully submitted,



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